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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/224,027	12/31/1998	JOSEPH AUGUST GIORDANO	15828-178001	4204
26231	7590	10/28/2009		
FISH & RICHARDSON P.C. P.O. BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022			EXAMINER POINVIL, FRANTZY	
			ART UNIT 3696	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 10/28/2009	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

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reader is in the middle of a charge pulse. In the case where the sync line 900 is high, there is no confusion since the slave reader will continue to wait for a high to low transition.

In the case where the sync line is low, as at the start bit 906, it can be determined whether the low is preceding a MUX pulse 908 or is a charge cycle 910 by measuring the amount of time the sync line remains low. If the sync line remains low for more than $200\ \mu s$ ($\pm 10\%$), then it is not actually preceding a MUX pulse, but actually a charge cycle 910, in which case the interrupts are re-enabled and the hunt for the start bit resumes.

It will be also appreciated that processing routines are written such that message processing does not occur in a manner to inordinately slow down the master reader 20. Slowing down the master reader 20 is to be avoided since this will slow down the entire system of readers 20.

Pseudo-code written for storage and processing in the master and slave readers 20 that implements the synchronization of MUX 62 channels using the sync line 62 may be expressed as follows:

Sync Pseudo-Code (Slave Reader)

Start:

```
start timer
while sync line is high
    wait
    if timer goes off, go to Start
    // test to see if this is the 200  $\mu s$  low. If not, we were not synced!
    start timer
    while sync line is low
        wait
        if timer had gone off then go to Start
    // okay, we are synced. Time the pulse to determine the mux channel
    disable interrupts
    start timer
    while sync line is high
        wait
    enable interrupts
    if timer is zero go to Start
```